

Post-Visit Guide

Grade 7

Overview: Magoffin, A Civic Leader

In this lesson, students will analyze primary sources to understand Joseph Magoffin's record of service in state and national government.

Social Studies TEKS

- (6) History. The student understands how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century. The student is expected to:
- (A) identify significant individuals, events, and issues from Reconstruction through the beginning of the 20th century, including the factors leading to the expansion of the Texas frontier.
- (10) Geography. The student understands the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment in Texas during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The student is expected to:
- (A) identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and analyze the positive and negative consequences of the modifications;
- (15) Government. The student understands the structure and functions of government created by the Texas Constitution. The student is expected to:
- (A) describe the structure and functions of government at municipal, county, and state levels.
- (17) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a democratic society. The student is expected to:
- (C) express and defend a point of view on an issue of historical or contemporary interest in Texas.
- (21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:
- (A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;
 - (B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;
 - (C) organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps;
 - (D) identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants;
 - (E) support a point of view on a social studies issue or event

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Materials

- Historical images, graphs, timelines for display/distribution
- **Magoffin, A Civic Leader** activity resources

Vocabulary

- **legacy:** the manner in which an historical figure is remembered for his/her actions and contributions to public life
- **municipal:** of or relating to a town or city and its government

Historical Context

The Magoffins experienced a rapidly changing El Paso firsthand. With the coming of the railroads, El Paso industry and population boomed. The Magoffins were not only citizens of El Paso, but more importantly, leaders in its growth. Joseph was elected mayor four times between 1880 and 1900. He dedicated over 30 years to city, county, and federal work in El Paso. His achievements included:

- swearing in the first city officials for the newly incorporated city of El Paso as a Justice of the Peace,
- re-energizing interest in city government and organizing council work into a system of committee review in his first mayoral term,
- publicly and privately promoting railroad development,
- equipping the fire department, setting up a hospital bond election, organizing drainage and street improvements, and placing priority on a strong public-school system in his second mayoral term,
- working with federal officials to straighten the Rio Grande River and construct levees to protect El Paso from dangerous flooding in the late 1890s.

Activity: Magoffin's Mayoral Legacy

5 minutes

Ask students to reflect on their visit to the Magoffin Home by completing all columns of their **KWL chart**. Have students share their experiences including any new questions raised by the visit.

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Activity: Magoffin, A Civic Leader

15 minutes

- As a class, review the concepts of municipal, county, state, and federal government. Display/distribute the **structure of government chart**.
- Display/distribute the **Civic Leader primary sources 1-6**. Have students identify which level of government is represented in each primary source.

Answer Key

1. county
2. municipal
3. municipal
4. municipal
5. federal
6. municipal

Activity: Magoffin's Mayoral Legacy

10 minutes

Context: In 1898, Magoffin was taken to court by a saloon owner over an unpaid gambling debt. The *El Paso Herald* ran this cartoon and other stories about Magoffin in the weeks leading into the 1899 mayoral election. It has been suggested that the newspaper editor had a grudge against Magoffin and favored the republican candidate, O'Keefe, for mayor. In the end, Magoffin won the 1899 election by a 72% majority.

Display/distribute the **political cartoon**. Have students analyze the cartoon by discussing the following questions:

- Who is pictured in the cartoon? [Mayor Magoffin, roulette tender, arms signifying saloon keeper, dive keeper, vice , and gambling]
- What is the issue the cartoon is referring to? [Magoffin's gambling debt]
- Who is the cartoon's intended audience? [all eligible voters]
- If you were a voter in the 1899 El Paso mayoral election, how would this cartoon have affected you? [Answers will vary.]
- What is the effect of this cartoon on Magoffin's legacy of civic leadership? [Answers will vary.]

Assessment

Evaluate students' final KWL charts, participation in discussion, and activity worksheet for completeness and understanding.

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ELA Extension Activity: Taming the Rio Grande

ELA TEKS

(18) Writing/Persuasive Texts. Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues. Students are expected to write a persuasive essay to the appropriate audience that:

- (A) establishes a clear thesis or position;
- (B) considers and responds to the views of others and anticipates and answers reader concerns and counter-arguments; and
- (C) includes evidence that is logically organized to support the author's viewpoint and that differentiates between fact and opinion

Context: In 1898, the Rio Grande caused massive flood destruction across southern El Paso, with waters reaching as far north as the Texas and Pacific rail lines a few blocks from the Magoffin Home. Mayor Magoffin personally led crews day and night to respond to the flooding and, afterward, led restoration of the city. In June of that year, he worked with federal officials to straighten the river and build levees to immediately protect citizens. The 1898 catastrophe as well as his memory of flood-damaged Magoffinsville in the 1860s moved Mayor Magoffin to advocate for a federal project to dam the Rio Grande.

Tell students to imagine they are residents of 1898 El Paso and have survived the latest flood. They are to write a letter to the editor of the *El Paso Herald* stating their position for or against the building of a dam on the Rio Grande. Encourage the students to include researched details, like damage from historical floods or the effects of a dam on a river ecosystem, that might support their position.

For an additional challenge, stage a mock debate in your classroom with citizens for and against the modification of the Rio Grande.

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Resource Image: Joseph Magoffin



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Resource Timeline: Joseph Magoffin's Public Service

1869-1874	Justice of the Peace
1874-1876	County Commissioner
1875	Alderman
1876-1878	County Judge
1880-1881	Alderman/Mayor Pro Tem
1881-1883	Mayor, 1st Term
1883-1885	Mayor, 2nd Term
1885-1889	U.S. Collector of Customs
1897-1899	Mayor, 3rd Term
1899-1901	Mayor, 4th Term

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Resource Graphic: Structure of Government

municipal

Services include providing water and electric utilities; maintaining streets; garbage pickup; public transportation; collecting taxes; and fire and police response

Officers include Mayor, Alderman/Councilperson, City Manager, Treasurer, Attorney and Health Officer.

county

Services include maintaining law and administering justice through courts and jails; road building and repair; vital records like deeds, wills and marriage licenses; assessing property for taxes; holding elections; and sometimes establishing hospitals, parks, etc.

Officers include Commissioners, Sheriff, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Clerk, Treasurer, Health Officer, County Attorney.

Precinct officers include Justice of the Peace and Constable. District officers include District Judge and District Attorney.

state

Like the federal government, state government has three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

Broadly, state officials define, administer, and interpret state law. Through boards, agencies, and departments, the state government sets standards for areas like education and health and governs state resources.

Executive Officers include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller and Commissioners.

Legislative Officers include Senators and Representatives.

Judicial Officers include Supreme Court Justices, and Judges for the Court of Criminal Appeals.

federal

The federal government has three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The federal government defines, administers, and interprets laws for US citizens.

The federal bureaucracy includes agencies and organizations with many different responsibilities like customs and trade regulations, environmental protection, and military defense.

Executive Officers include the President, Vice President, and Cabinet. Under the Cabinet are Bureaus and Agencies.

Legislative Officers include Senators and Representatives.

Judicial Officers include Supreme Court Justices and other federal and lower court officers.

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Activity Image: Magoffin's Mayoral Legacy

El Paso Herald, April 5, 1899, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu



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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 1

El Paso Daily Herald, Dec. 20, 1877. The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu

AUSTIN, Dec. 20, 1877.

Major Jones yesterday telegraphed Lieut. Tays, who commanded the Rangers at San Elizario, asking who of the Rangers were killed, and if any of the mob were Mexicans from across the Rio Grande, and to not exaggerate. This morning he received the following reply:

Sergeants McBride and Mortimore and Miguel Garcia shot; two missing. Got out by a scratch. They took our arms. One hundred and fifty from Mexico. Send some ammunition.

LIEUT. J. B. TAYS, Front. Batt.

The governor has positive assurance from Judge Magoffin, of El Paso county, who has lived there twenty years, and from the sheriff, who knows all the people, that a large proportion of the mob was from Mexico, and now Lieut. Tays, who lived there six years, and knows the people, and saw the mob face to face, confirms this account. Garcia and others with him also know the people, and it is beyond question this testimony is better and more credible than that of Lieut. Blair, who, twenty eight miles from the scene of the massacre, telegraphs that all the mob are native-born Texans.

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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 2

Chamizal Arbitration, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1911, (pp 152, 163), made available digitally at <https://books.google.com/books?id=9p0tAAAYAAJ>.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNSEL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, MAY 25TH, 1881.^a

"MAY 25, 1881.

"At a called meeting of the City Council there were present Aldermen Ochoa, Magoffin, Hague and Hart. Absent Mayor Schutz and Aldermen Slade and Krakauer.

"Mr. Juan Ochoa took the chair as Mayor pro tem. * * *

"The map compiled by the City Engineer, Juan S. Hart, was on motion adopted as the official map of the City of El Paso, provided that the same shall not be binding upon those whose land has been dedicated to the City. A copy of the map was ordered filed with the records and papers of the City.

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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 3

Chamizal Arbitration, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1911, (pp 152, 163), made available digitally at <https://books.google.com/books?id=9p0tAAAYAAJ>.

“The ayes and noes being called for, the roll was called and resulted as follows: Alderman Hague, first ward, not voting. Alderman Phillips, first ward, aye. Alderman Keating, second ward, aye. Alderman Schutz, second ward, aye. Alderman Blacker, third ward, aye. Alderman Krakauer, third ward, aye. Result: six members present, one refused to vote, and five in favor of adopting the report and ordinance granting right of way, etc. to City Railway Company, which the Mayor, pro tem. declared carried and adopted accordingly. * * *

The Council then adjourned to its next regular meeting, November 20, 1881.

Approved:

JOSEPH MAGOFFIN, *Mayor.*”

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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 4

El Paso Daily Times, 1883. The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu

Railroad Magnates.
Yesterday evening about 10 o'clock a special train came in on the Southern Pacific railway, bearing the head officers of the Central Pacific and all leased lines. They were on a general tour of inspection, and stopped at this point for an hour or so. Some of the prominent citizens of the town, consisting of Mayor Magoffin and Messrs. Buchanan, Morehead, J. S. Fletcher, U. S. A., Bassett, Beall, and one or two others, wishing to extend to them the hospitality of El Paso, and treat them with that cordiality for which the "Future Immense" is noted, called upon the party in carriages and extended to them an invitation to view the city over. The officers, having an hour or so to spare, and pleased with the invitation, accepted and were escorted to prominent points of the city, including the reservoir, the Mesa Garden, Paso del Norte

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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 5

Galveston Daily News, 1886. The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu

M

MacDonald James T, job Printer, Tribune office.

Mackley James A, furnished rooms, San Francisco st bet Santa Fe and Chihuahua sts.

Mackley A E, barkeeper at Milwaukee Beer hall, 7 San Antonio st.

McPike & Young, props of Ophir saloon s El Paso st, r No. 7 San Antonio st.

Madden W C, r cor Chihuahua and w Overland sts.

Madrid H, with Ketelsen & Degetau.

Magoffin Jos, collector of customs, office U S Cus House San Antonio st, r Magoffin ave.

Maher T R, exp mess W, F Ex Co, G H & S A R R.

Major B E, laborer, r cor Hills and Second sts Magoffin add.

Malin Samuel, Prop of Star Livery stables, r w Overland st.

Mangels Paul, clk with Ketelsen & Degetau.

Manning Mrs Gussie, r Oregon st cor Third st.

Manning Frank M, driver for Union market, r cor Fourth and St Vrain sts.

Manning Dr G F, r Campbell st cor e Overland st.

Joseph Vogel carries a Large and Elegant Stock of Imported Goods.

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Activity: Civic Leader Primary Source 6

El Paso Daily Times, 1897. The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu

THE recommendation of Mayor Magoffin that the city engineer be given charge of the sewer is a good one. His present duties are light and a street commissioner could be found who could do good service at a much lower salary than is now paid.

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